

David Greenawalt Farm
14611 Almaden Expressway
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2009

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DAVID GREENAWALT FARM
(David Greenawalt Tank House)

HABS No. CA-2009

Location: 14611 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California.

USGS San Jose West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 10.599680.4123580.

Present Owner: John Giacomazzi.

Present Use: Residence and orchard complex; tank house is vacant.

Significance: The 19th century tank house is an architectural artifact that was once commonplace throughout Santa Clara Valley, providing a constant supply of large volumes of water to fruit crops and the main house. As a result of more modernized irrigation systems, the tank house - a structure that was significant in the development of the fruit-growing industry during the 1870s in this area - is obsolete to large operations today, and is consequently vanishing from the county. The square, two-story frame structure built by David Greenawalt ca. 1877, covered with shiplap siding and trimmed at door and window openings and the roof eave to complement the main house's stylistic design, is a good example of many that filled the landscape in the second half of the 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The main house was built in 1877. The tank house was constructed ca. 1877.
2. Architect: No information available.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The structure is part of an eight-acre orchard complex, which is located along what is now the Almaden Expressway. David Greenawalt acquired 624 acres of land from Edmund B. Dunn on October 8, 1867, described as follows: "All that certain tract of land being a portion of the Rancho San Juan Bautista or Narvaiz Ranch, situate lying and being in the County of Santa Clara, and State of California . . ." (Probate Court Records, August 12, 1889). On July 6, 1888, Greenawalt died intestate. The land was subsequently divided into seven equal parcels by the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, and each parcel was distributed

to one of Greenawalt's seven children. Today, only a small section of the original property remains.

4. Original plan and construction: No original plans are known to exist.
5. Alterations and additions: The tank house's exterior appears to be unchanged since its construction in the 1870s. Many different plumbing systems - progressively more modern - have been installed in the interior.

B. Historic Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

David Greenawalt, the builder and original owner of the orchard was born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania in 1824. He moved north to Wisconsin in 1846 at the age of twenty-two, and in 1850, he traveled to California in the hope of prospering during the Gold Rush. The next year Greenawalt married Eliza Booth, and together they sailed to Australia, returning to Santa Clara County in 1852. He was initially involved in his father-in-law's stock business, and in October 1867 he bought the orchard property.

At the time of his death in July 1888, Greenawalt was a widower with seven children: George, 34 years old; Mary, 32; Edna, 29; Amelia, 27; William, 25; John, 20; and Thomas, 18. His estate assessed in August 1889, was valued at \$65,579.64, including 624 acres of land, the main house, outbuildings, livestock and farm implements. An itemized list of Greenawalt's personal estate appeared in his will, dated August 12, 1889 and filed in the Probate Court, Santa Clara County.

GOODS AND CHATTELS

In cellar	spray pump and fix etc	12
Kitchen	stove and furniture	60
Dining	furniture and carpets	47.50
Parlor	"	116.50
Hall	carpet and rods	10
One bed room	set and carpet	75.50
" " " " " "	cedar	47.50
" " " " " "		39
" " " " " "	old	10
1 Brown mare	13 yrs old	175
1 Grey	" 15 " "	100
1 "	" 7 " "	175
1 "	" " " "	150
1 sorrel	" 11 " "	75
1 roan	" " " "	50

1 bay	mare	18	yrs	old	10
1 colt	Bay	3	"	"	150
1 "	Black	2	"	"	125
1 "	"	"	"	"	125
1 "	"	1	"	"	75
1 suckling colt					50
2 milk cows					40
13 head of stock cattle	@ \$12				156
12 " " hogs	5@ 12 1/2	7	@ \$2		74
1 wagon larger					40
1 wagon and rack					30
1 "					30
					<hr/>
					\$14,584.12
					plus farm implements

The tank house originated with the need to supply large volumes of water to the orchards of the Santa Clara valley during the latter half of the nineteenth century. An artesian belt, discovered in the valley at mid-century, was the primary source from which water was drawn to irrigate the fruit crops. The narrow artesian wells were fifty to eighty feet deep and naturally pressurized, forcing water to rush upward to the surface and connected to the second-story tank by a well pipe, enabling the drum to fill continuously. A second pipe extended on the structure's exterior from the tank down to a few feet above the ground. By opening a valve the tank's pressure was released and water flowed from the pipe to fill an irrigation wagon. As a result of more modernized irrigation systems, the tank house, once essential to the county's fruit-producing industry and now obsolete to large orchard operations, is vanishing from the county.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Santa Clara County Probate Court, Estates and Wills, Santa Clara County Courthouse, 1889. Now filed in the San Jose Historical Museum, San Jose, California.

2. Secondary and published sources:

H.S. Foote. Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World of Santa Clara County, California. Chicago; 1888, pp. 436-37

Prepared by Robert Bruegmann
 Project Supervisor
 Historic American
 Buildings Survey
 Summer 1978

Jan Cigliano
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The tank house is a functional structure, designed to supply the main house and orchard with water during the nineteenth century. Constructed at the same time as the house, the tank house is trimmed with similar architectural details around door and window openings and along the roof eave, complimenting the main structure's stylistic design.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-story tank house measures 18'-2" square.
2. Foundation: The foundation is constructed of 6" x 6" grade beams laid directly upon the leveled ground surface.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Wall construction on the first floor consists of 6" x 6" grade beams supporting 3" x 6" rough cut studs, and 6" x 6" corner studs. This is topped by a single 6" x 6" wallplate. All four lower walls are cross-braced by a section 3" x 6" lumber nailed between the studs. The second floor walls are constructed with 2" x 4" milled studs, spaced 24" apart. All exterior surfaces are sheathed with wooden shiplap siding.
4. Structural system, framing: Heavy wooden timber framing, supporting the weight of the water stored on the second floor. The water storage tank on the second level, measuring approximately seven-foot square, is supported by 4" x 4" joists that rest on an elaborate cross-brace truss system. These trusses rest on nine 2" x 12" floor joists, 12" on center. Under the joists 6" x 6" beams, resting on four interior columns were used to support the weight of the water in addition to the first-story walls. The frame structure system of the second-story enclosure is basically 2" x 4" milled studs, 24" on center, with one top plate. The roof framing consists of 2" x 6" milled ridge pieces, 2" x 4" milled rafters covered with 1" x 6" milled nails, spaced 2 1/2" apart.

5. Porches: None.
 6. Chimneys: None.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway is framed with 2" x 12" lumber which tapers with the splaying slope of the wall, creating a vertical mounting. The door is wooden with four panels.
 - b. Windows: An unglazed opening is on the first and second story of the north side. The first-floor opening is covered by slatted shutters; the second-floor opening is filled in with flush horizontal wooden louvred shutters. Two openings on the south wall correspond to those on the north.
 8. Roof: A low hip roof with wooden shingles extends one foot beyond the walls' surface.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plan;
 - a. Main floor: Open square plan.
 - b. Second floor: Open square plan.
 2. Stairways: A ladder attached to the north wall leads to the second floor.
 3. Flooring: The first floor is dirt. On the second floor deck boarding forms catwalks along two of the outside walls.
 4. Notable hardware: Three sets of pipes and a large pressurized metal tank, in addition to the original tank, remain.
- D. Site: The tank house is located east of the main house, within the landscaped area surrounding the house. Orchards surround the immediate property.

Prepared by John Murphy
Architectural Technician
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1979

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the County of Santa Clara. The 1978 summer project, the second year of a three-year recording project in Santa Clara County, was completed under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect; and Robert Bruegmann, Project Supervisor (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle); with Jack Schafer, Architectural Foreman (University of Cincinnati); and student architects Robert E. Clarke (University of Notre Dame), Barbara M. Friedman (University of Pennsylvania), Julia H. Miner (Yale University), and John B. Murphy (Texas Tech University), at the HABS Field Office in Saratoga, California. The drawings were edited in the HABS Washington office during the summer of 1979 by Architect David T. Marsh. The historical and architectural data was researched and written during the summer of 1979 by Jan Cigliano, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, at the 1979 HABS Field Office in Santa Clara, California. Photographs were taken by Staff photographer Jane Lidz in the summer of 1980.